

## **PART III: Regional Updates**

### **SECTION 4: North Desert Region**

#### **OVERVIEW**

As stated in the Introduction to this report, the focus and primary goal of this service review is to provide the Commission with recommendations to: (1) update the determinations from previous service reviews, (2) initiate sphere of influence updates where appropriate, and (3) continue monitoring where appropriate. In order to fulfill the service review requirements of Government Code §56430, a review of the items, listed below, is included in this section as they pertain to the North Desert Region.

- A. Agency Boundaries
- B. Agency Spheres of Influence
- C. Responsibility Areas
- D. Ambulance Operating Areas
- E. Station Locations and Station Drive Times
- F. Population Projections
- G. Disadvantaged Communities

#### **A. AGENCY BOUNDARIES**

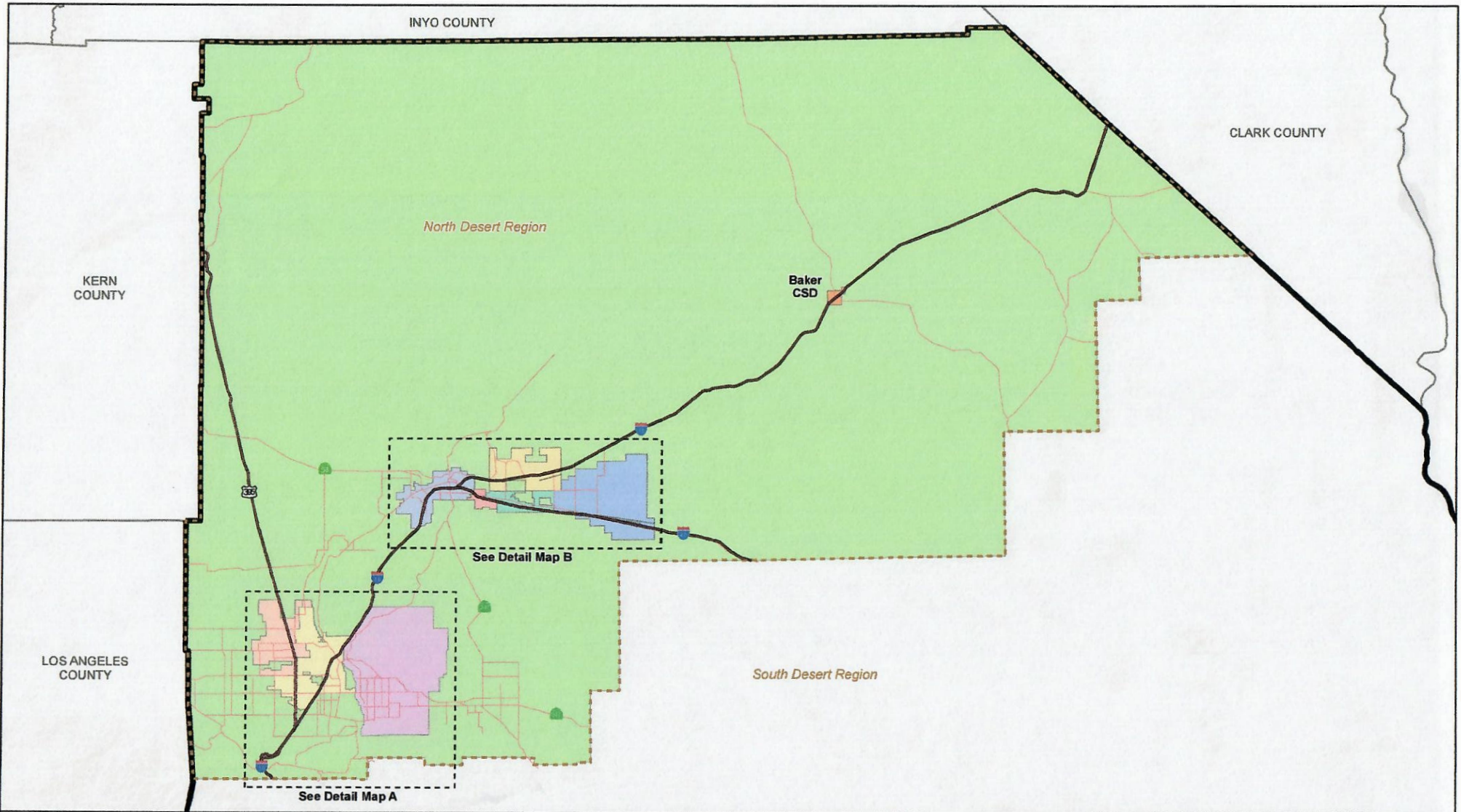
The North Desert Region, with approximately 10,779 square miles, is the largest region geographically in the County and the second largest in terms of population. The Mojave Basin lies in the High Desert and is located on the northeastern flanks of the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains that separate the High Desert from the coastal basins and inland valleys of the greater Los Angeles and Orange County areas. Overall, land surface elevations within the Mojave Region range from 5,500 feet above sea level in the San Bernardino Mountains on the south to 1,500 feet near Afton Canyon on the east.

Within the North Desert, nine agencies under LAFCO purview as well as the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow provide fire and emergency services. A map showing agency boundaries is included in Figure 3-24.

#### **B. AGENCY SPHERES OF INFLUENCE**

“Sphere of influence” means a plan for the probably physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the Commission (§56076). Spheres both proactively guide and respond to the need for the extension of infrastructure and delivery of municipal services to areas of emerging growth and development. The requirement for LAFCOs to conduct service reviews was established to acknowledge the importance of spheres, and recognize that periodic updates of spheres should be conducted with the benefit of current information available through service reviews.

Figure 3-25 shows the spheres of influence for each of the nine agencies under LAFCO purview that provide fire protection and emergency services in the North Desert Region.



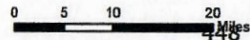
**Figure 3-24: North Desert Region Fire Protection Providers**

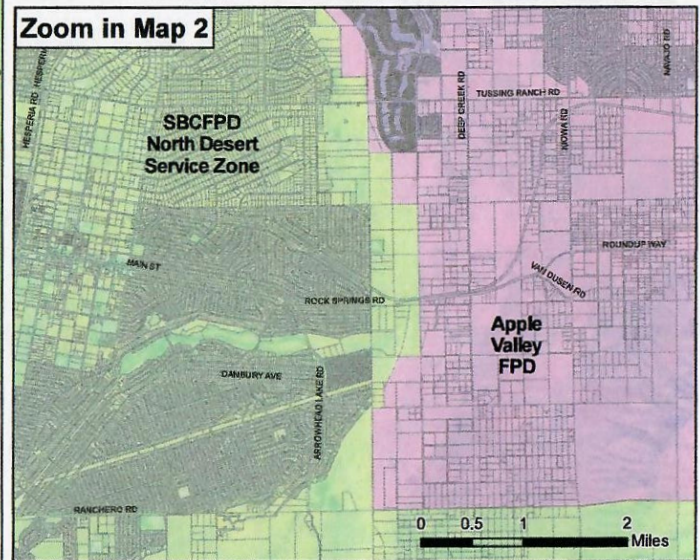
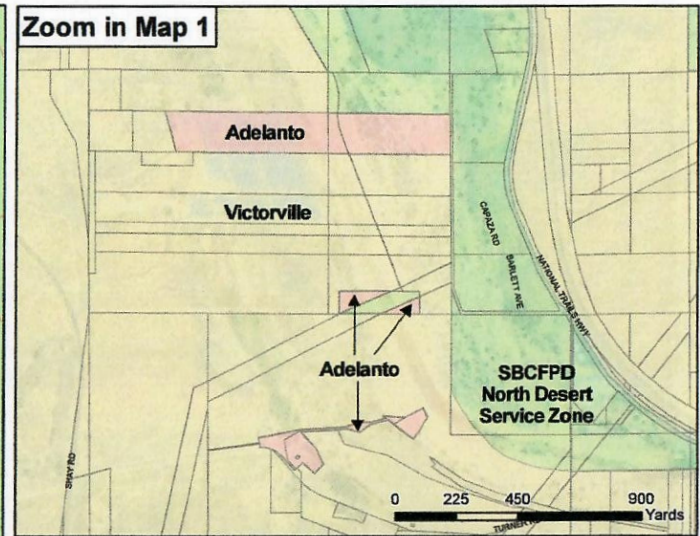
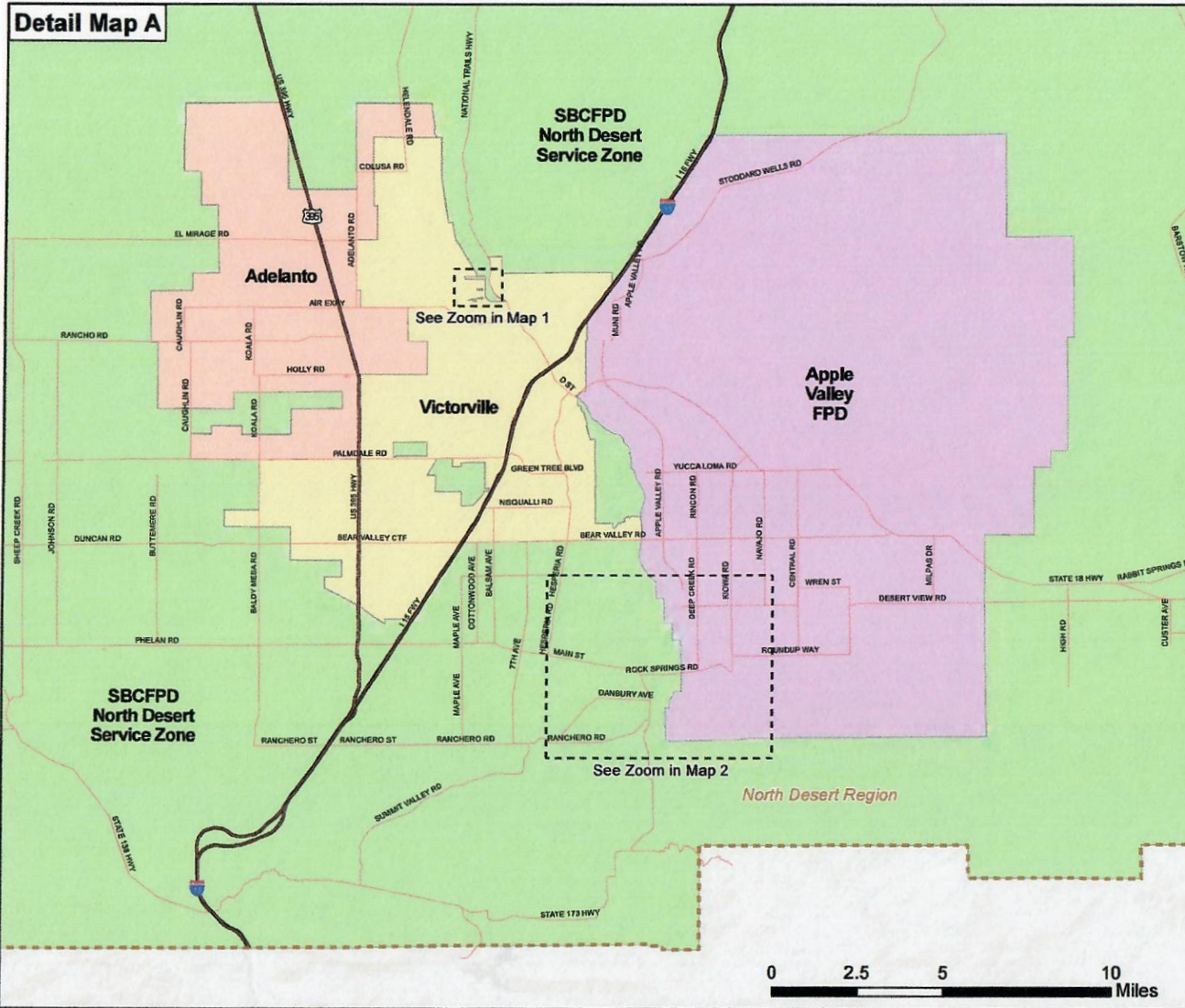
- Apple Valley Fire Protection District
- Barstow Fire Protection District
- Barstow Marine Corps Logistics Base
- Baker Community Services District
- City of Adelanto
- City of Victorville
- Daggett Community Services District
- Newberry Springs Community Services District
- San Bernardino County Fire Protection District
- Yermo Community Services District
- San Bernardino County Line
- North Desert Region



Disclaimer: The information shown is intended to be used for general display only and is not to be used as an official map.

\*In instances of overlapping agencies, the boundary of the underlying agency is reduced.





**Figure 3-24: North Desert Region Fire Protection Providers Detail Map A**



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\*In instances of overlapping agencies, the boundary of the underlying agency is used.



- City of Adelanto
- City of Victorville
- Apple Valley Fire Protection District
- San Bernardino County Fire Protection District North Desert Service Zone
- North Desert Region
- San Bernardino County Line

**Detail Map B**



**Figure 3-24: North Desert Region Fire Protection Providers Detail Map B**

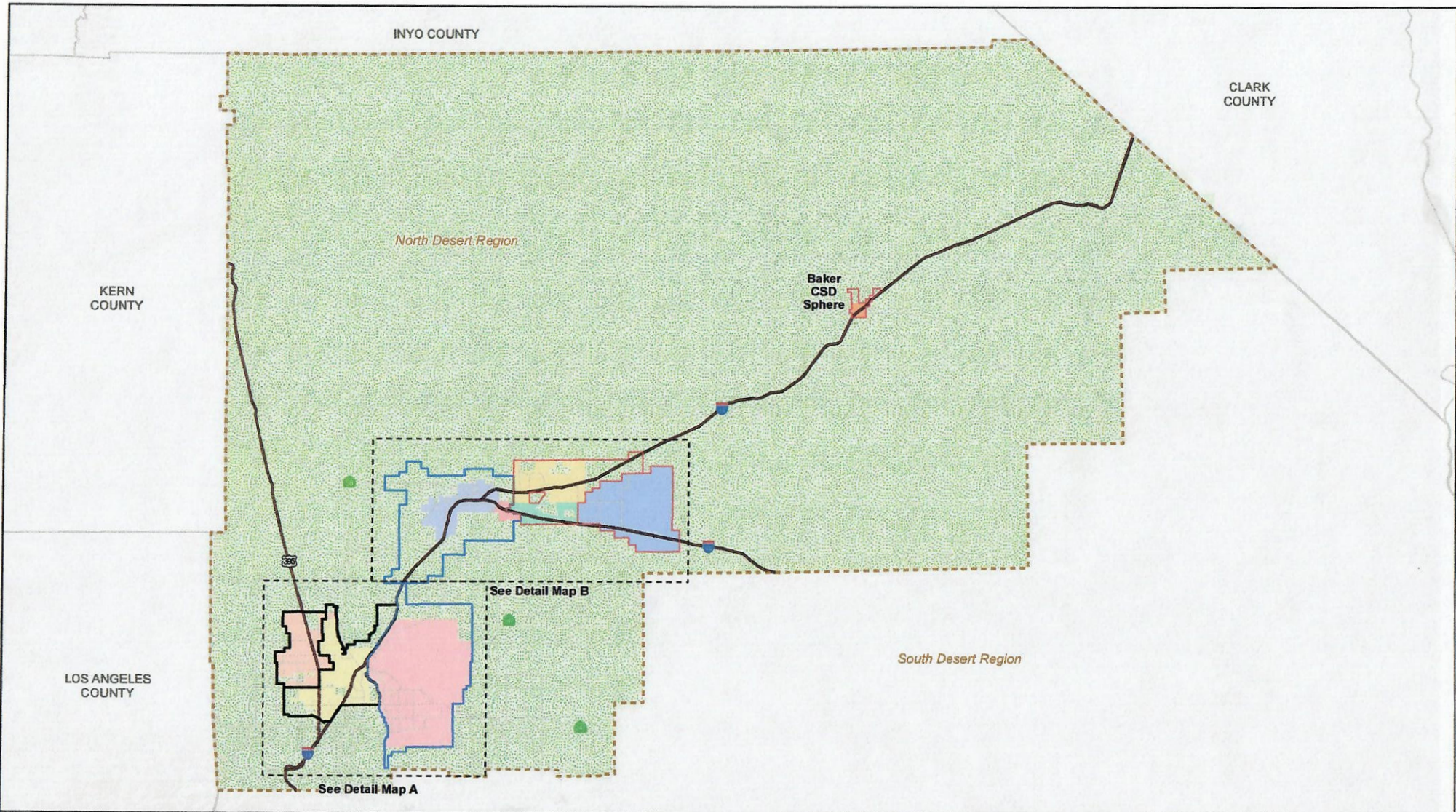


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- Barstow Fire Protection District
- Barstow Marine Corps Logistics Base
- Baker Community Services District
- Daggett Community Services District
- Newberry Springs Community Services District
- San Bernardino County Fire Protection District
- Yermo Community Services District

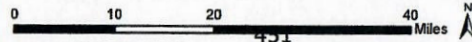


**Figure 3-25: North Desert Region Fire Protection Providers Sphere of Influence**

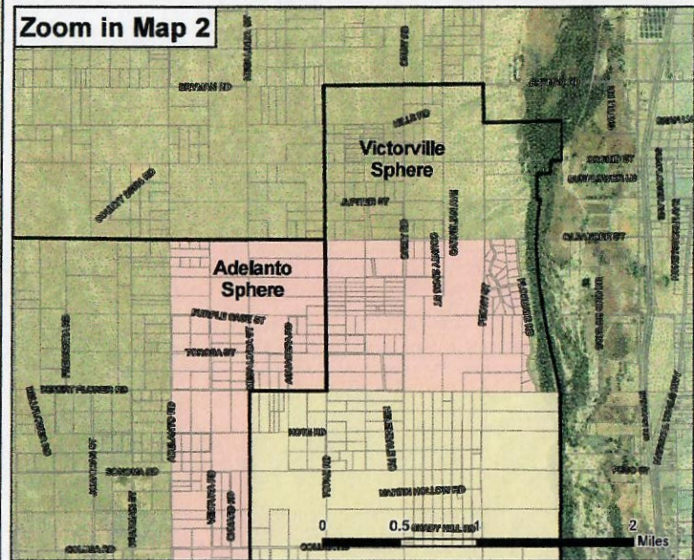
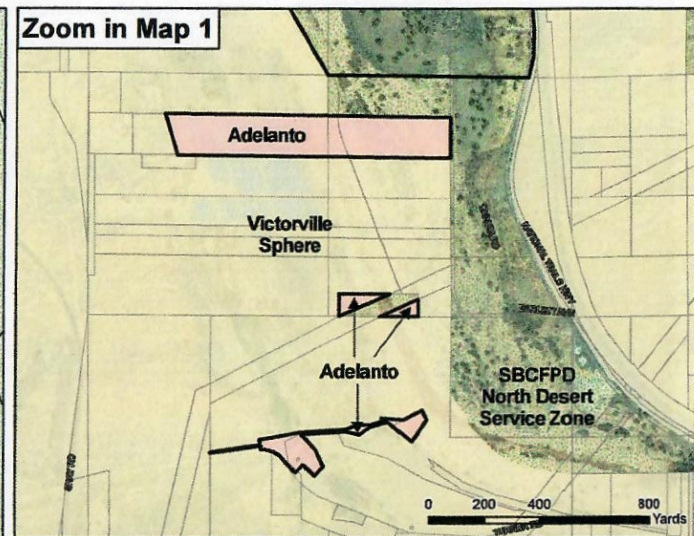
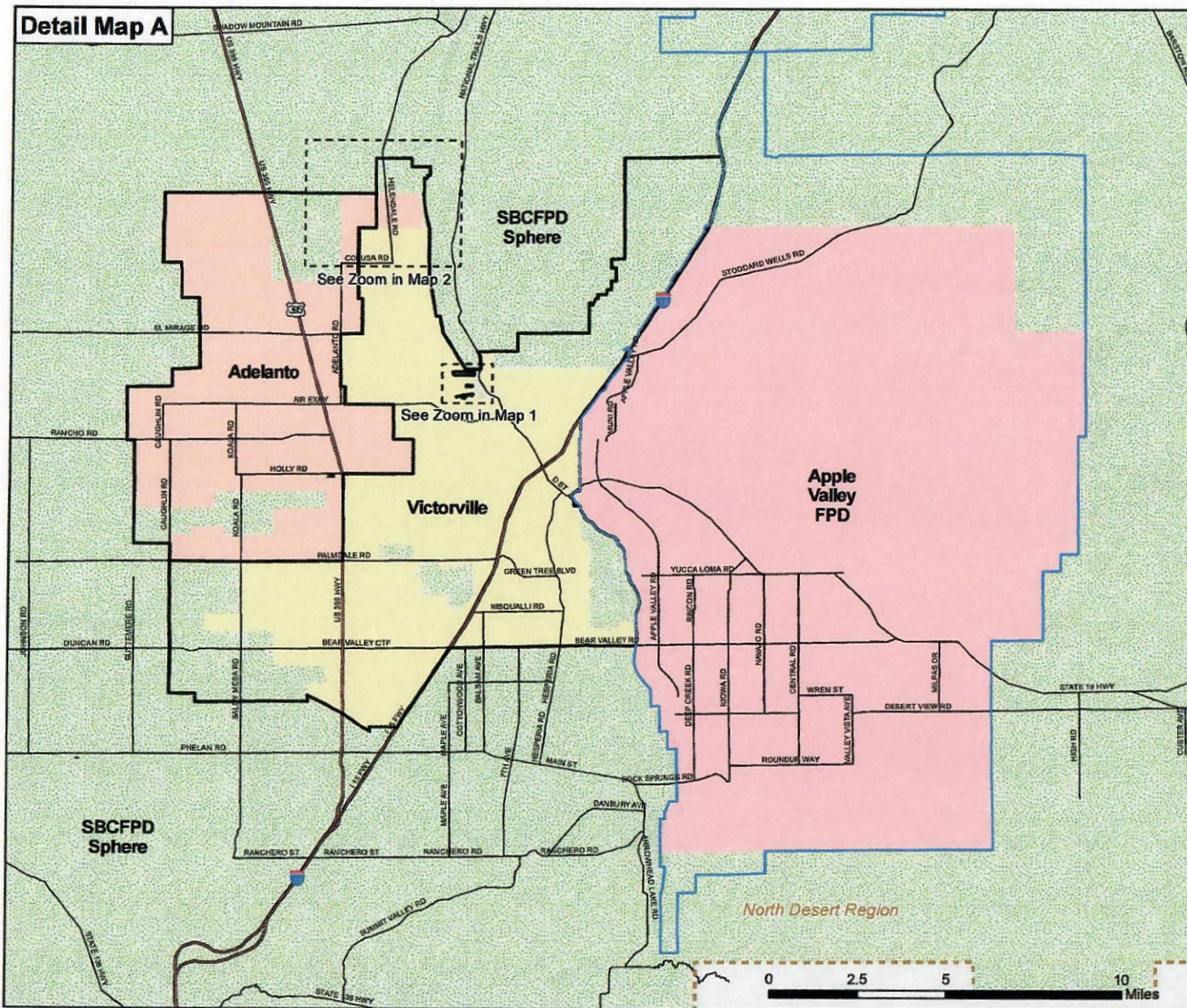


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\*In instances of overlapping agencies, the boundary of the underlying agency is reduced.



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| All City Spheres of Influence                                      | Daggett Community Services District          |
| All Community Services District Spheres of Influence               | Newberry Springs Community Services District |
| All Fire District Spheres of Influence                             | Yermo Community Services District            |
| San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Sphere of Influence | Apple Valley Fire Protection District        |
| City of Adelanto   | Barstow Fire Protection District             |
| City of Victorville  | Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow          |
| Baker Community Services District                                  | North Desert Regions                         |



**Figure 3-25: North Desert Region Fire Protection Providers Detail Map A**



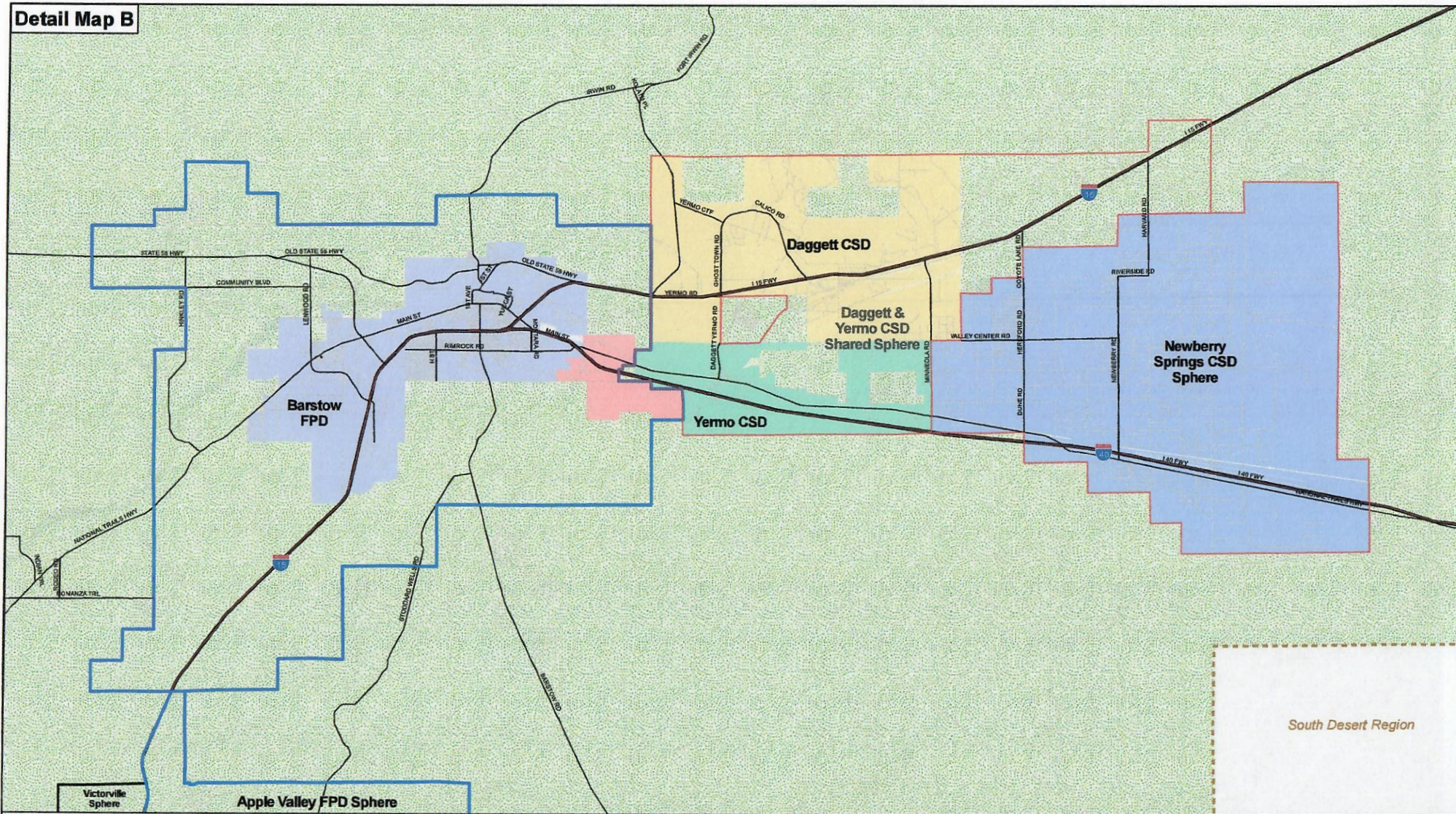
Disclaimer: The information shown is intended to be used for general display only and is not to be used as an official map.

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- All City Spheres of Influence
- All Fire Protection District Spheres of Influence
- City of Adelanto
- City of Victorville
- Apple Valley Fire Protection District
- San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Sphere of Influence

**Detail Map B**



**Figure 3-25: North Desert Region Fire Protection Providers Detail Map B**

- All Community Services District Spheres of Influence
- All Fire Protection District Spheres of Influence
- Barstow Fire Protection District
- Yermo Community Services District
- Daggett Community Services District
- Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow
- North Desert Region
- Newberry Springs Community Services District



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**C. RESPONSIBILITY AREAS**

Responsibilities for fire suppression are generally divided between local, state and federal agencies. Areas not within a state or federal responsibility area are a local responsibility. These local agencies primarily include the county, cities and special districts. State and Federal agencies address fire prevention and suppression on state and federal lands.

The North Desert Region is dominated by a variety of federal lands, including, but not limited to, the Fort Irwin Military Reservation, Mojave National Preserve, Death Valley National Park and China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station. As shown on Table 3-12, below, federal agencies are responsible for fire suppression for the vast majority of land (79 percent) within the North Desert Region, but local agencies are responsible for serving the most people (86 percent).

**Table 3-12:  
North Desert Region Responsibility Areas**

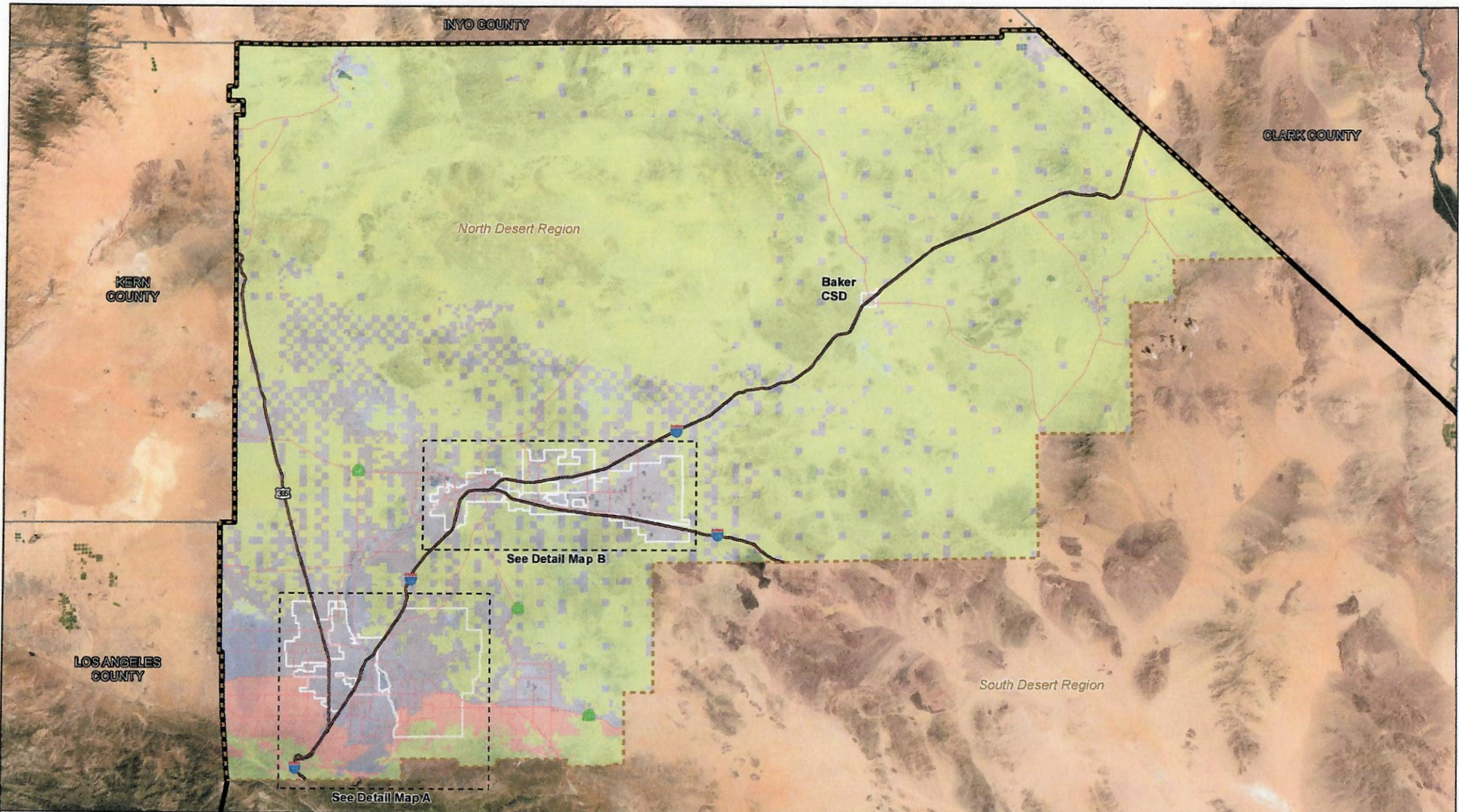
Responsibility	Area Sq. Miles	Area Percent	Population 2018	Population Percent
Local	1,997	18.5%	399,907	86.1%
State	272	2.5%	49,273	10.6%
Federal	8,510	78.9%	15,316	3.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,779</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>464,496</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*Source: ESRI Community Analyst, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. ESRI estimates for 2018 ESRI converted Census 2000 data into 2010 geography.*

For addressing wildland fires, CAL FIRE, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Bureau of Land Management coordinate with local agencies. Military institutions and some Indian tribes have their own fire departments. LAFCO does not have purview over these agencies. Should a structure fire occur in a state or federal responsibility area that is within the overlying local agency, then the suppression is the primary responsibility of the local agency.

Figure 3-26 depicts the Local, State and Federal Responsibility Area boundaries in the North Desert Region.





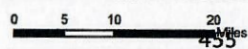
**Figure 3-26: North Desert Region Fire Responsibility Area**

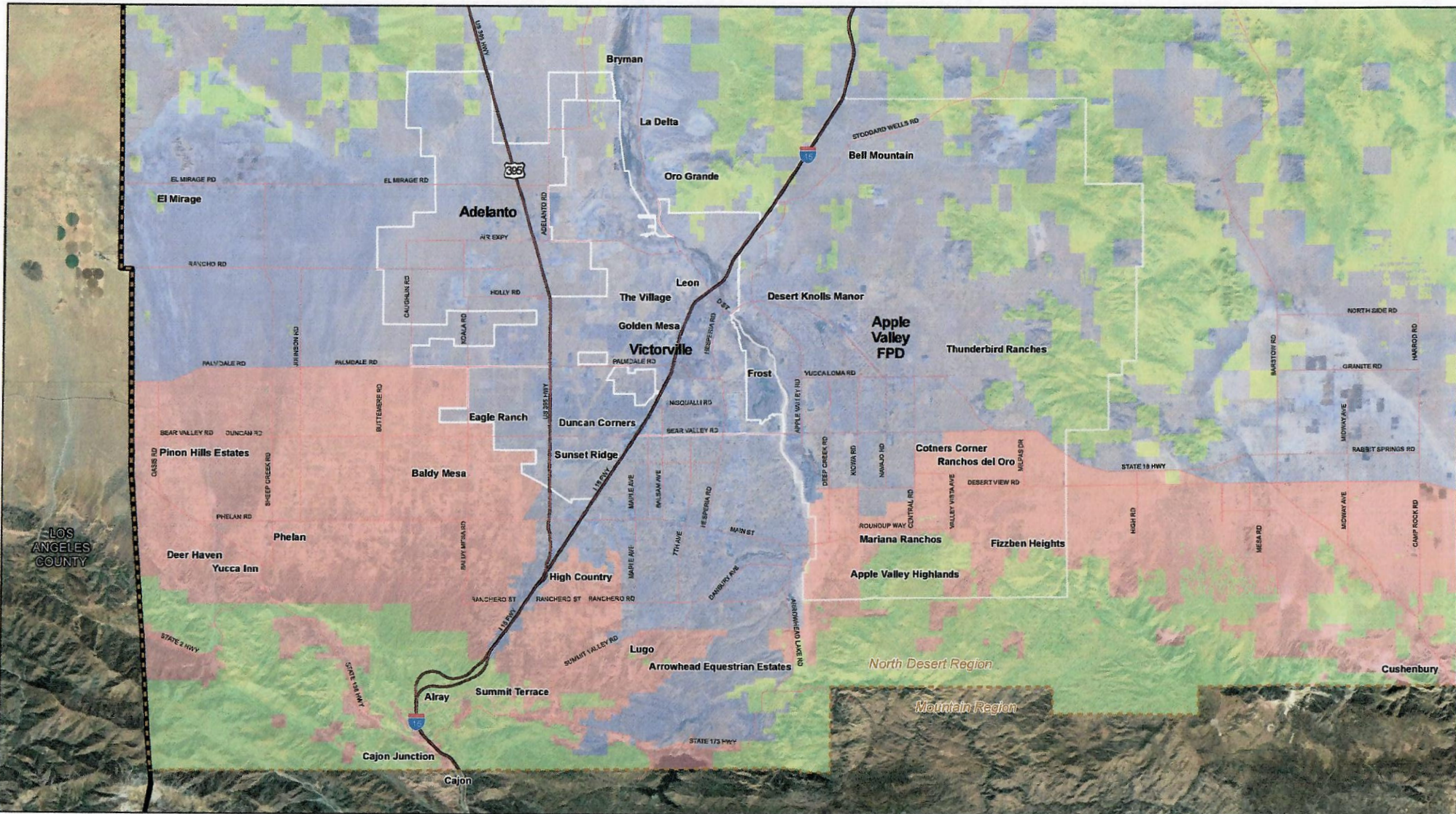
- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Responsibility Area         | --- North Desert Region      |
| Local Responsibility Area   | — San Bernardino County Line |
| State Responsibility Area   |                              |
| Federal Responsibility Area |                              |



Disclaimer: The information shown is intended to be used for general display only and is not to be used as an official map.

Data Source:  
CALFIRE GIS Portal  
(Data Modified by SBCLAFCO)





**Figure 3-26: North Desert Region Fire Responsibility Area Detail Map A**

**Responsibility Area**

- Local Responsibility Area
- State Responsibility Area
- Federal Responsibility Area

North Desert Region

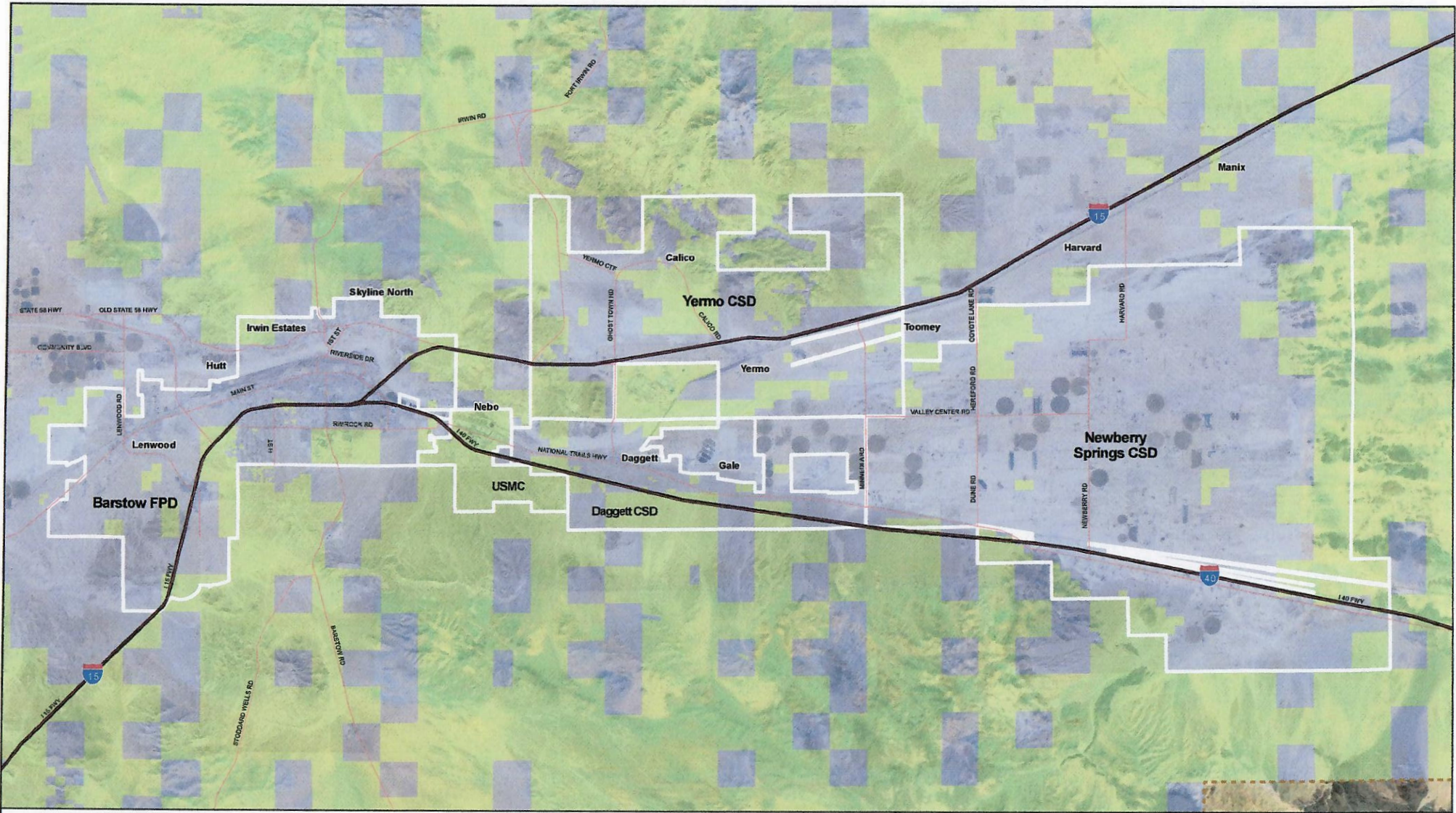
San Bernardino County Line



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Data Source:  
CALFIRE GIS Portal  
(Data Modified by SBCLAFCO)





**Figure 3-26: North Desert Region Fire Responsibility Area Detail Map B**

**Responsibility Area**

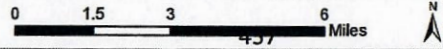
- Local Responsibility Area
- State Responsibility Area
- Federal Responsibility Area

North Desert Region



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Data Source:  
CALFIRE GIS Portal  
(Data Modified by SBCLAFCO)



**D. AMBULANCE OPERATING AREAS**

Agencies that provide structural fire protection also provide emergency medical services as an integral part of their response efforts. Emergency medical services generally refer to life support services and ambulance transport. There are 12 ambulance operating areas designated by the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Authority (“ICEMA”) in the North Desert Region (more fully described in Part 1, Section 1 of this report).

County Fire, with six operating areas and a service area of approximately 5,685 square miles (53 percent of the North Desert Region), covers the communities of Baker, Crest Forest, Lucerne Valley and Phelan-Piñon Hills and serves a population of approximately 135,000. AMR serves the largest population in the North Desert, generally covering the communities of Adelanto, Apple Valley, Spring Valley Lake, and Victorville, which encompass a population of approximately 278,406 and 987.9 square miles (9% of the region).

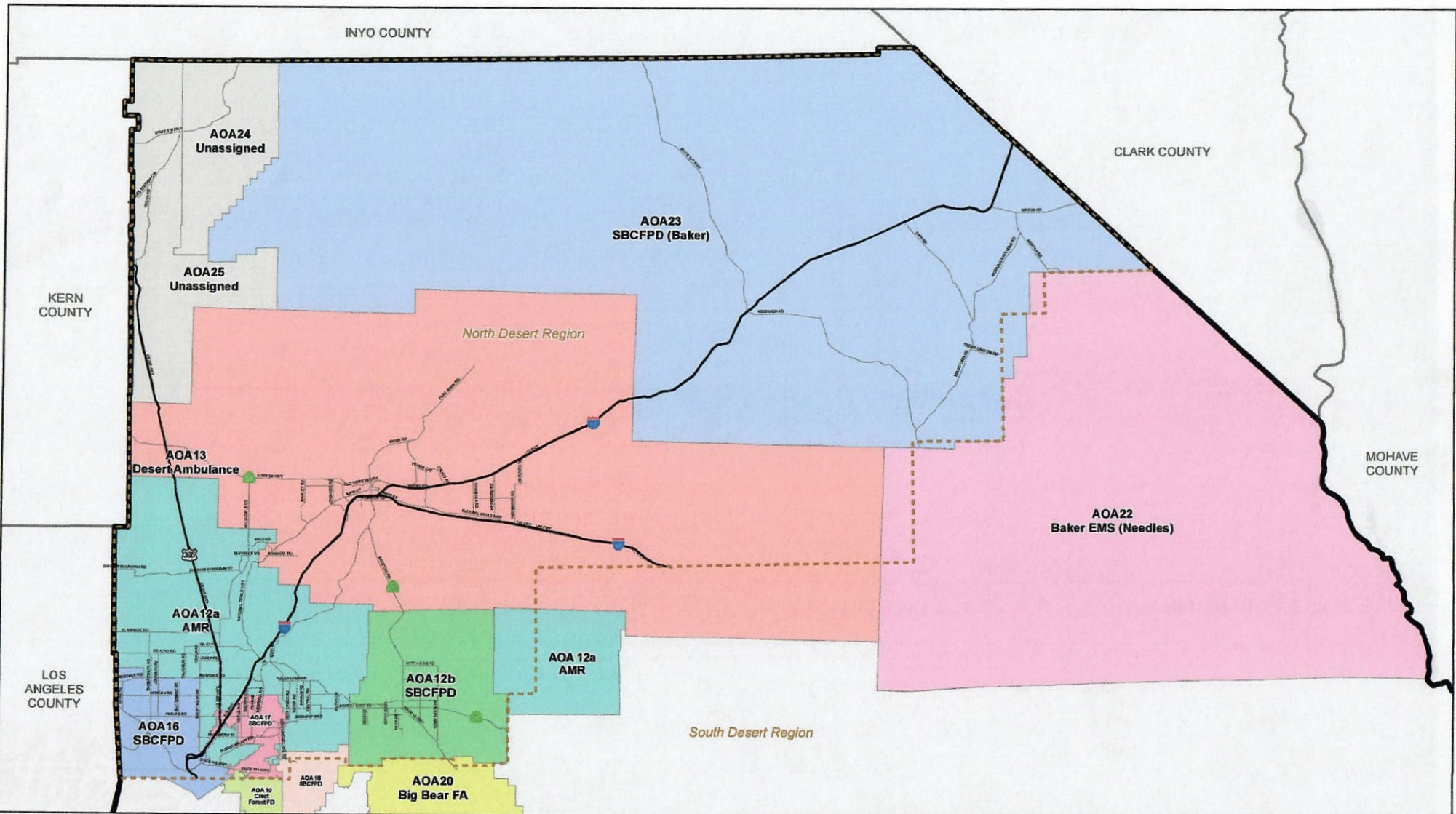
Table 3-13, below, provides detailed information on each ambulance assignment within the North Desert Region.

**Table 3-13:  
Ambulance Assignment within the North Desert Region**

Operating Area	Ambulance Assignment	Population 2018	Population Percent	Area Sq. Miles	Area Percent
10*	SBCFPD (Crest Forest FD)*	27	0.0%	2	0.0%
12a*	AMR*	278,393	59.9%	988	9.2%
12b	SBCFPD	6,945	1.5%	434	4.0%
13*	Desert Ambulance*	49,069	10.6%	3,235	30.0%
16*	SBCFPD*	30,062	6.5%	185	1.7%
17	SBCFPD (Hesperia)	97,033	20.9%	78	0.7%
18*	SBCFPD*	4	0.0%	16	0.1%
20*	Big Bear FA*	-	0.0%	5	0.0%
22*	Baker EMS (Needles)*	-	0.0%	86	0.8%
23*	SBCFPD (Baker)*	988	0.2%	4,970	46.1%
24	Unassigned	1,602	0.3%	298	2.8%
25	Unassigned	373	0.1%	482	4.5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>464,496</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>10,779</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*Only area(s) within the North Desert Region are included.

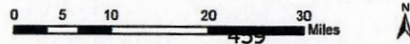
Figure 3-27 shows all the ambulance operating area boundaries within the North Desert Region.



**Figure 3-27: North Desert Region Ambulance Operating Area**

Ambulance Operating Area	
10 (San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Crest Forest)	16 (San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Wrightwood)
12a (American Medical Response)	17 (San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Arrowhead)
12b (San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Lucerne Valley)	18 (San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Lake Arrowhead)
13 (Desert)	20 (Big Bear Fire)
	22 (Baker Emergency Medical)
	23 (San Bernardino County Fire Protection District)
	24 (Unassigned)
	25 (Unassigned)
	North Desert Region
	San Bernardino County Line

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## **E. STATION LOCATIONS AND STATION DRIVE TIMES**

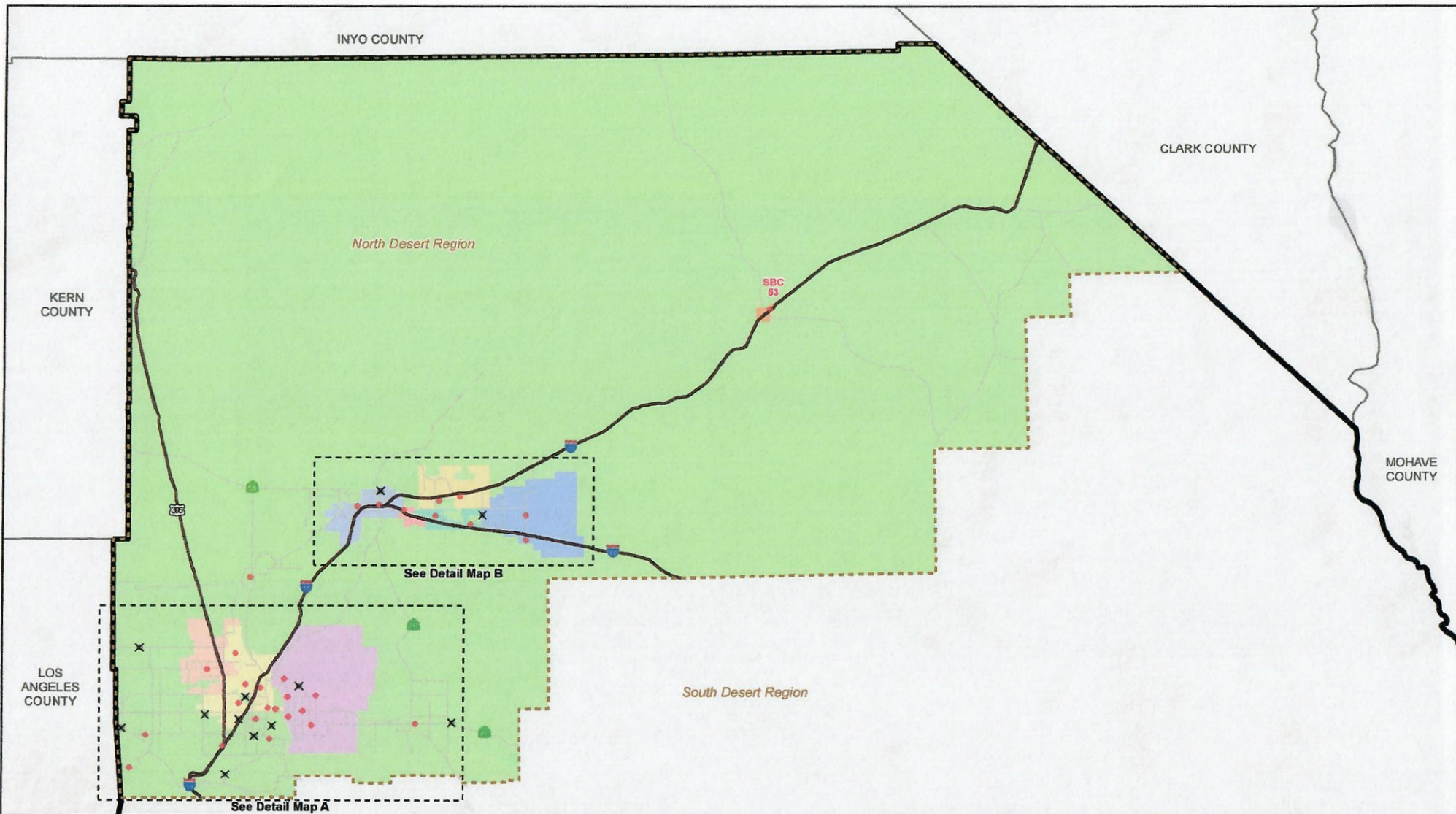
### Station Locations

The location of the fire station plays an important role in delivering efficient emergency service. Ten fire and emergency services agencies provide fire protection and emergency medical service from 30 active fire stations located throughout the North Desert Region. County Fire, with ten active stations, is currently the largest fire service provider in the North Desert Region covering the communities of Adelanto, Baker, Helendale, Hesperia, Lucerne Valley, Phelan Pinon Hills, Spring Valley Lake, and Wrightwood. Figure 3-28 shows all the fire protection agency areas and the locations of their fire stations.

### Station Drive Times

The distance between a fire station and the location of an emergency has a significant impact of response time. LAFCO staff conducted a drive time analysis to evaluate the emergency service coverage in the North Desert Region.

Figures 3-29 and 3-30 show the areas that can be reached from all fire stations within the North Desert Region in five and ten minutes, respectively. Staff performed the analysis using typical traffic conditions during mid-week (Wednesday at 12:00 P.M.) driving a standard fire rescue vehicle. The populated portions of the North Desert are concentrated in a relatively small portion of the Region. Using population distribution data available through ESRI Community Analyst, staff determined that 56.6 percent of the North Desert's populated areas are covered within a five-minute drive time area, and 88.1 percent of the population are covered within a ten-minute drive time area. However, even the populated areas of the desert contain large lots and undeveloped pockets.



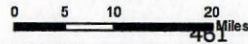
**Figure 3-28: North Desert Region Fire Stations**

- Active Fire Stations
- ✕ Inactive Fire Stations
- Apple Valley Fire Protection District
- Barstow Marine Corps Logistics Base
- Barstow Fire Protection District
- Baker Community Services District
- City of Adelanto
- City of Victorville
- Daggett Community Services District
- Newberry Springs Community Services District
- San Bernardino County Fire Protection District North Desert Service Zone
- Yermo Community Services District
- North Desert Region
- San Bernardino County Line

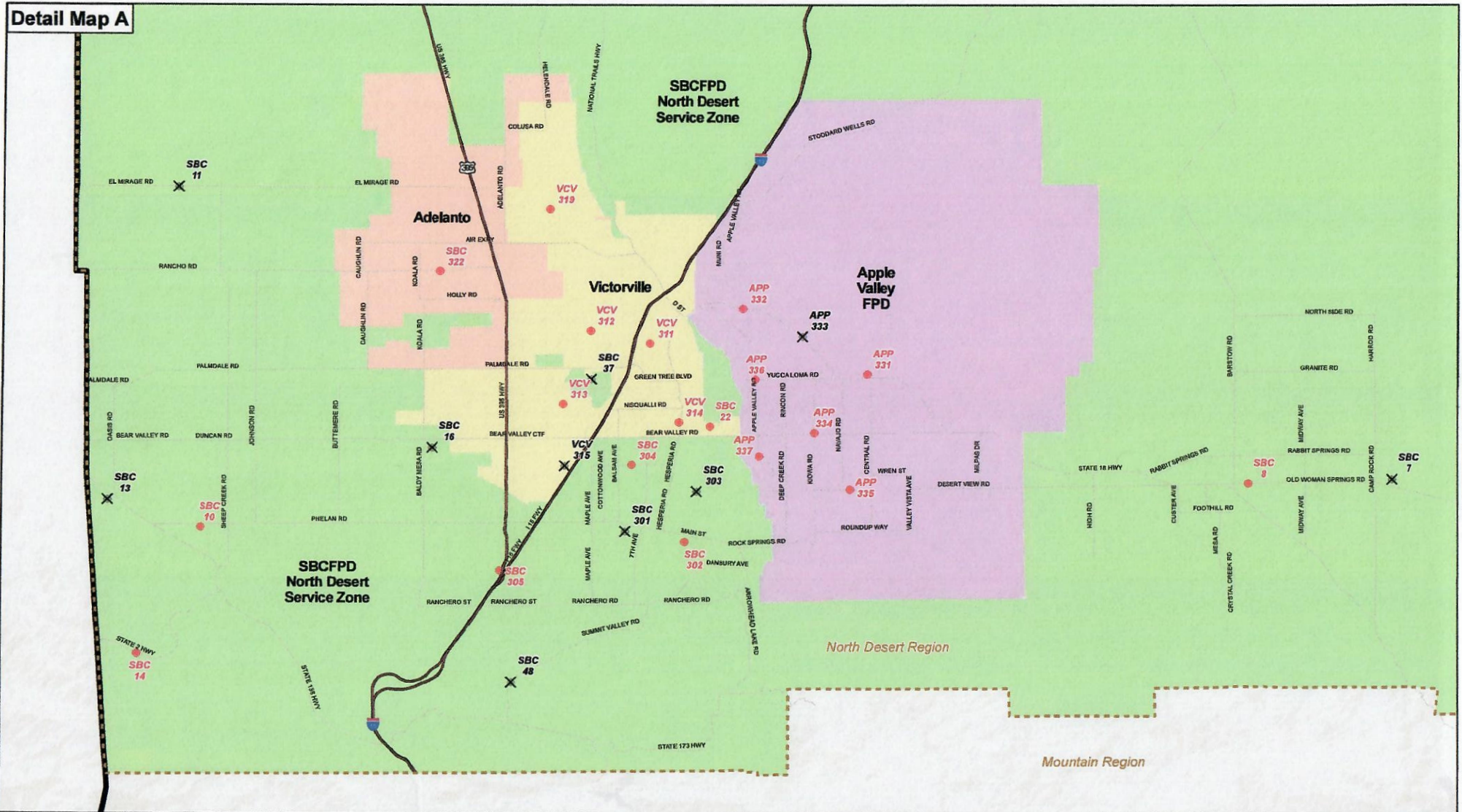


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**Detail Map A**

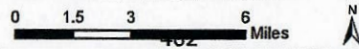


**Figure 3-28: North Desert Region Fire Stations Detail Map A**

City of Adelanto	Active Fire Stations
City of Victorville	Inactive Fire Stations
Apple Valley Fire Protection District	North Desert Region
San Bernardino County Fire Protection District North Desert Service Zone	San Bernardino County Line

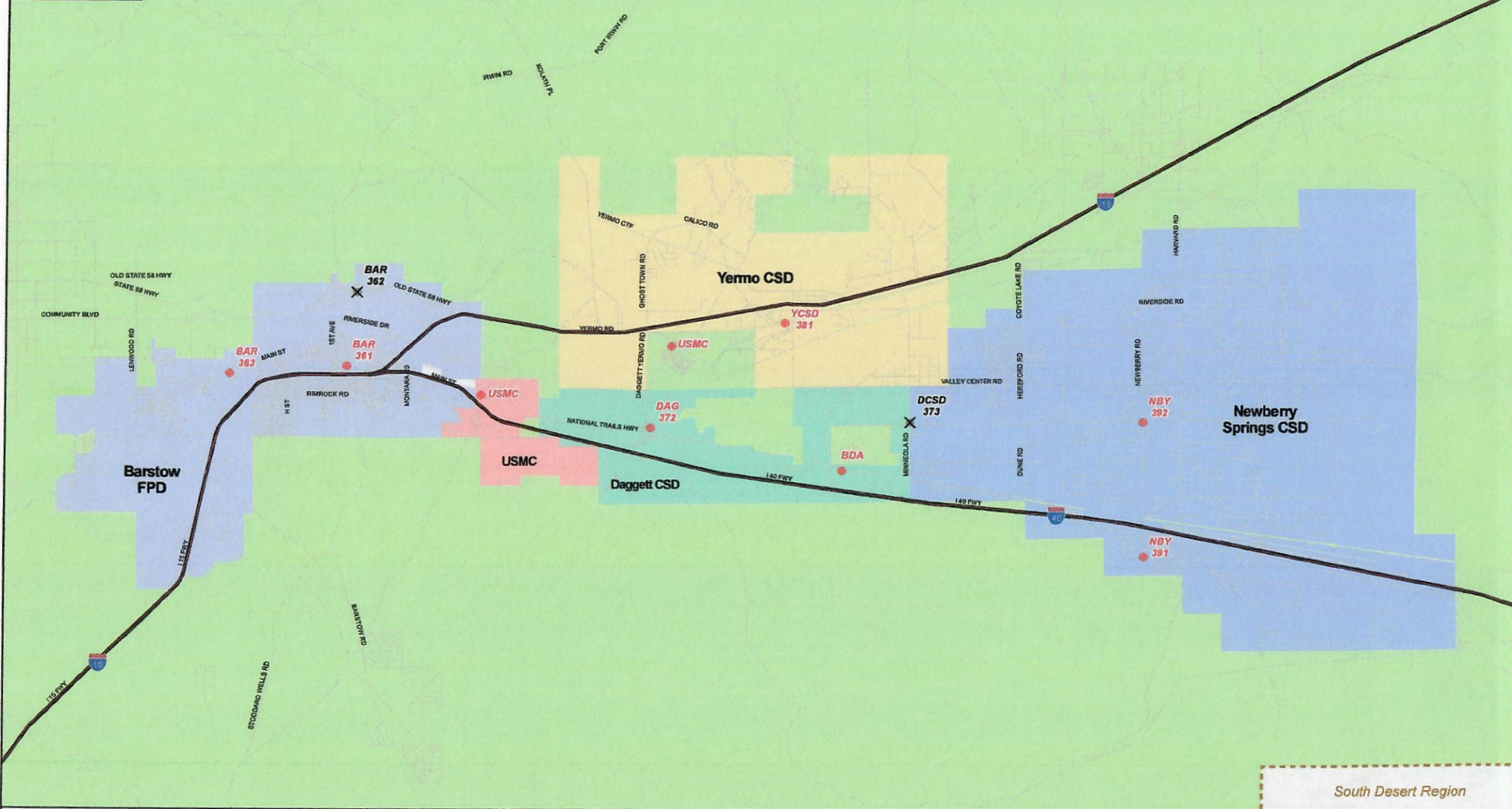
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**Detail Map B**



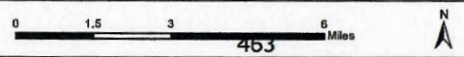
South Desert Region

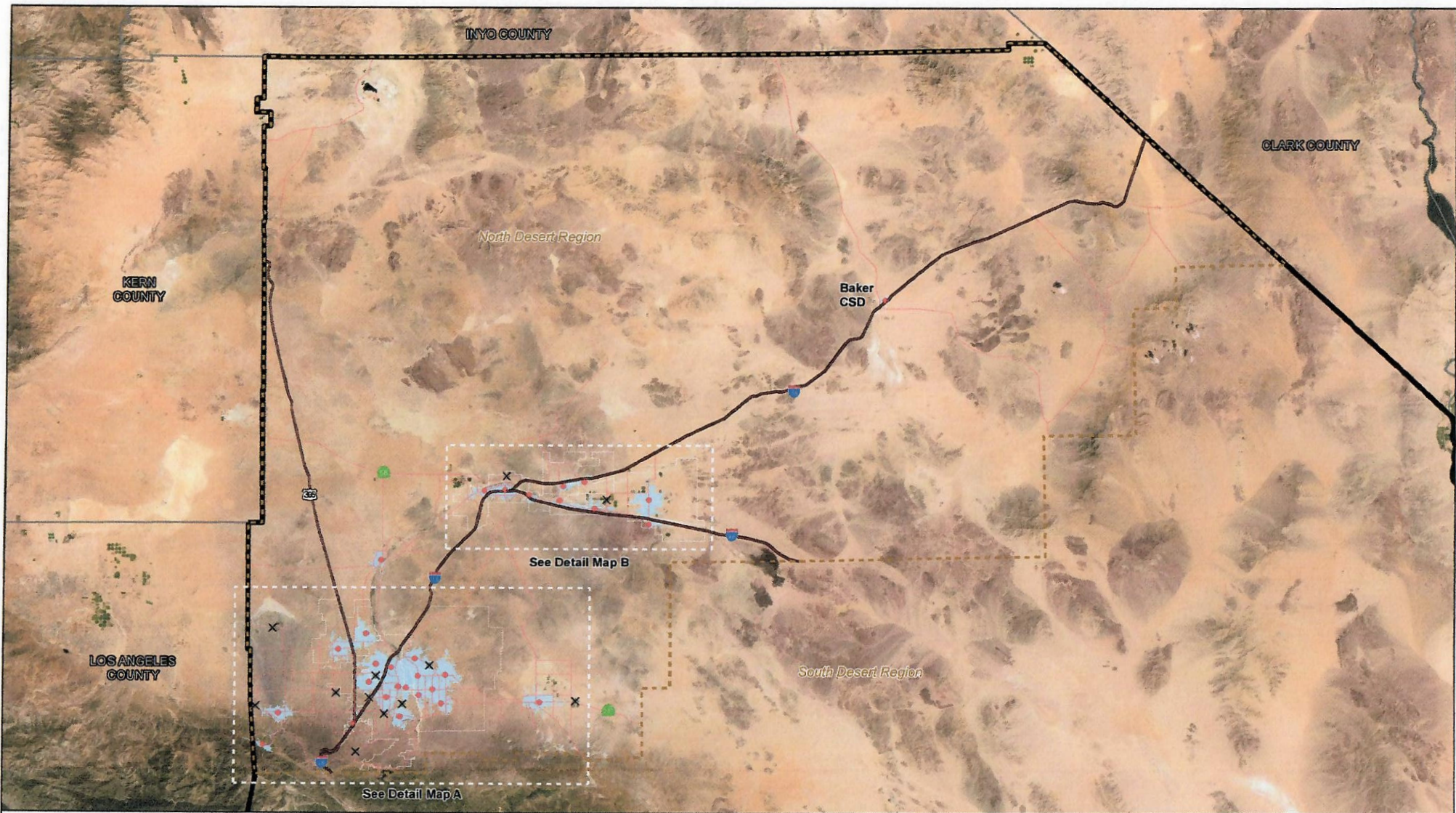
**Figure 3-28: North Desert Region Fire Stations Detail Map B**

- Barstow Fire Protection District
- Barstow Marine Corps Logistics Base
- Daggett Community Services District
- Newberry Springs Community Services District
- Yermo Community Services District
- Active Fire Stations
- ✕ Inactive Fire Stations

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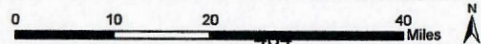
**Figure 3-29: North Desert Region Fire Stations Drive Time Analysis — 5 Minutes**

- 5 Minutes Drive Time Areas
- North Desert Region
- Active Fire Stations
- X Inactive Fire Stations
- San Bernardino County Line

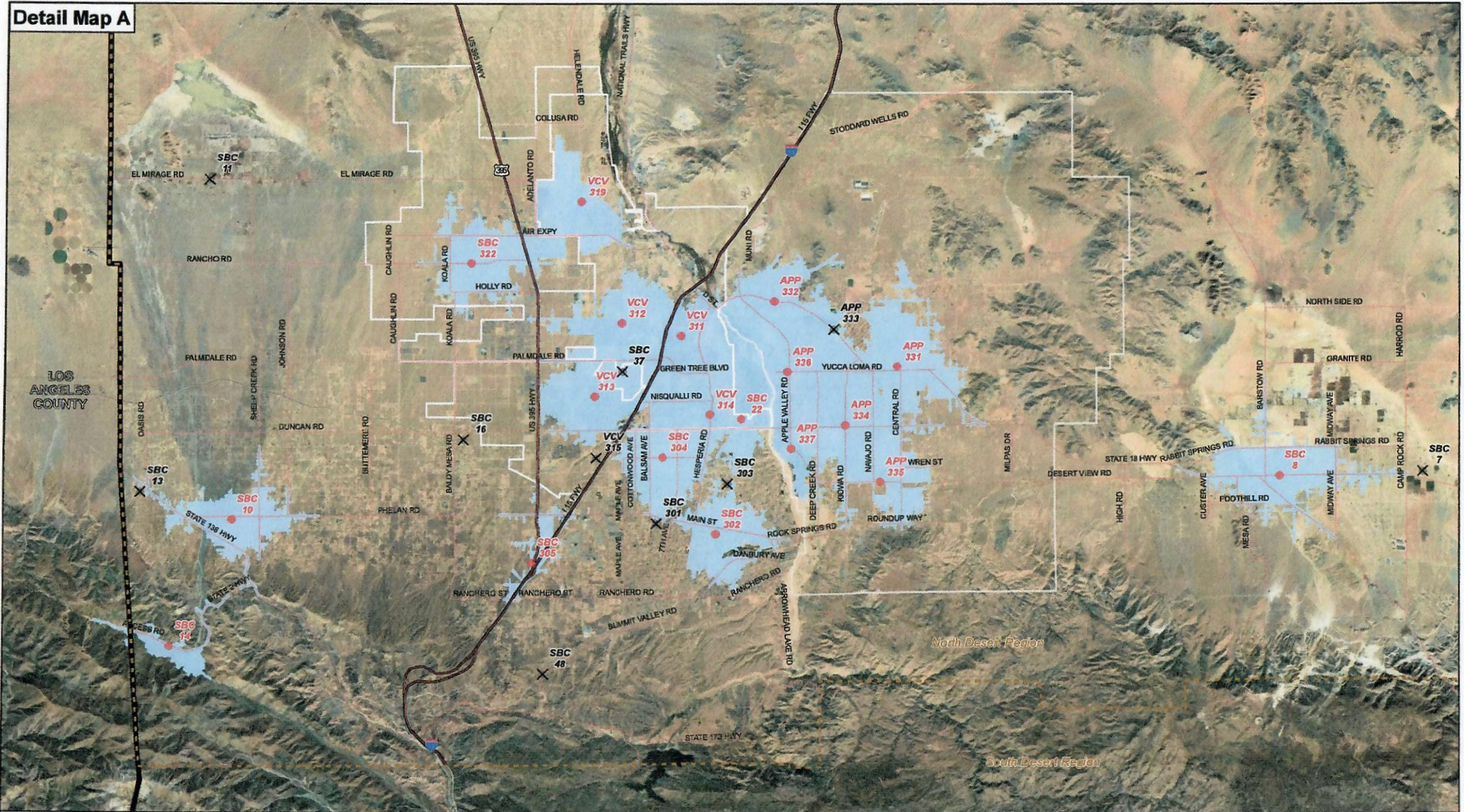


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Note: Drive time areas are generated based on a typical traffic condition on Wednesday, at 12:00 PM using ESRI Network Database



**Detail Map A**

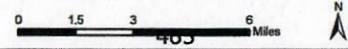


**Figure 3-29: North Desert Region Fire Stations Drive Time Analysis Detail Map A — 5 Minutes**

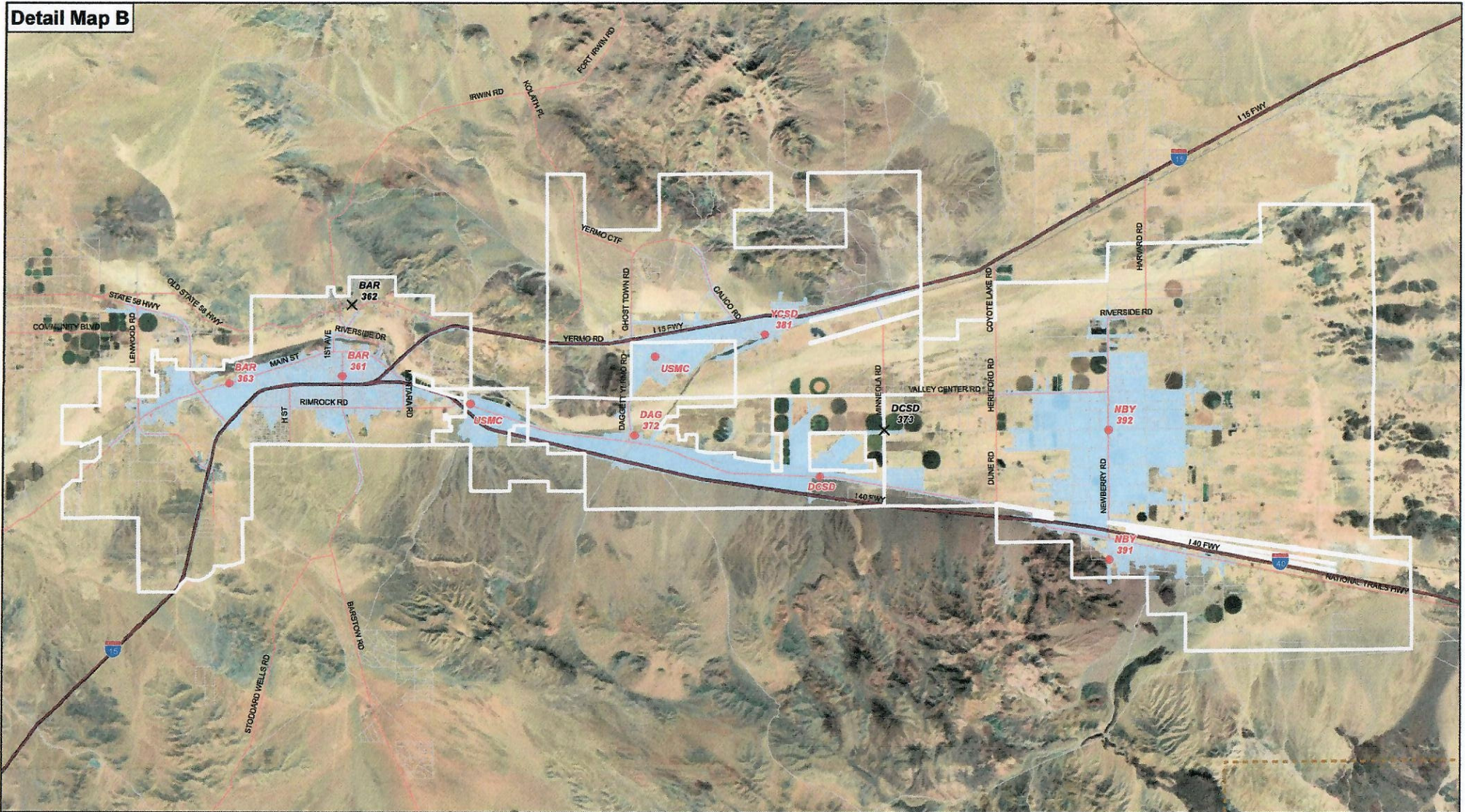
- 5 Minutes Drive Time Areas
- 5 Minutes Drive Time Areas
- Active Fire Stations
- X Inactive Fire Stations
- North Desert Region
- San Bernardino County Line

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**Detail Map B**

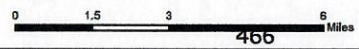


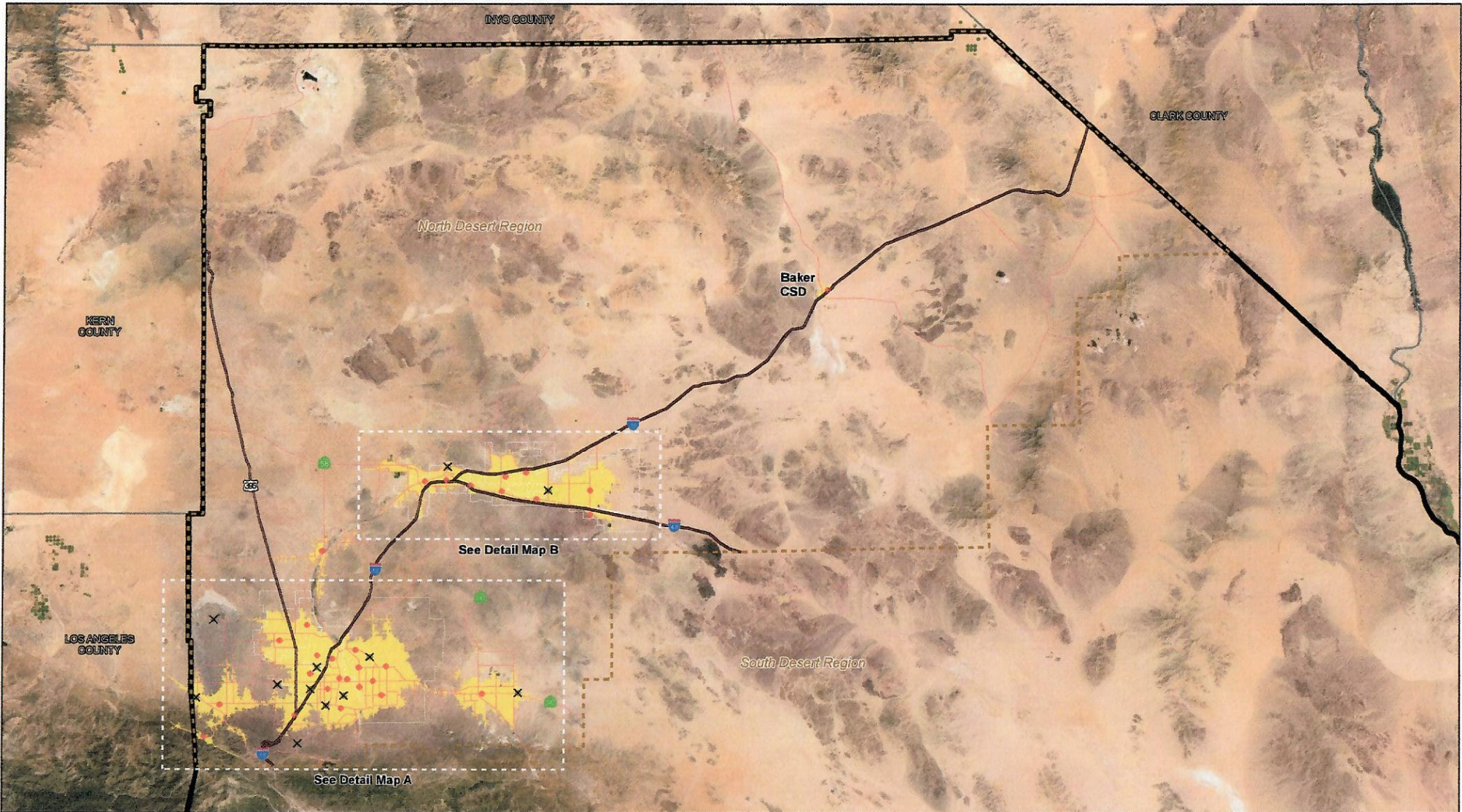
**Figure 3-29: North Desert Region Fire Stations Drive Time Analysis Detail Map B — 5 Minutes**

- 5 Minutes Drive Time Areas**
- 5 Minutes Drive Time Areas
- Active Fire Stations
- ✕ Inactive Fire Stations
- North Desert Region
- San Bernardino County Line

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Note: Drive time areas are generated based on a typical traffic condition on Wednesday at 12:00 PM using ESRI Network Database





**Figure 3-30: North Desert Region Fire Stations Drive Time Analysis — 10 Minutes**

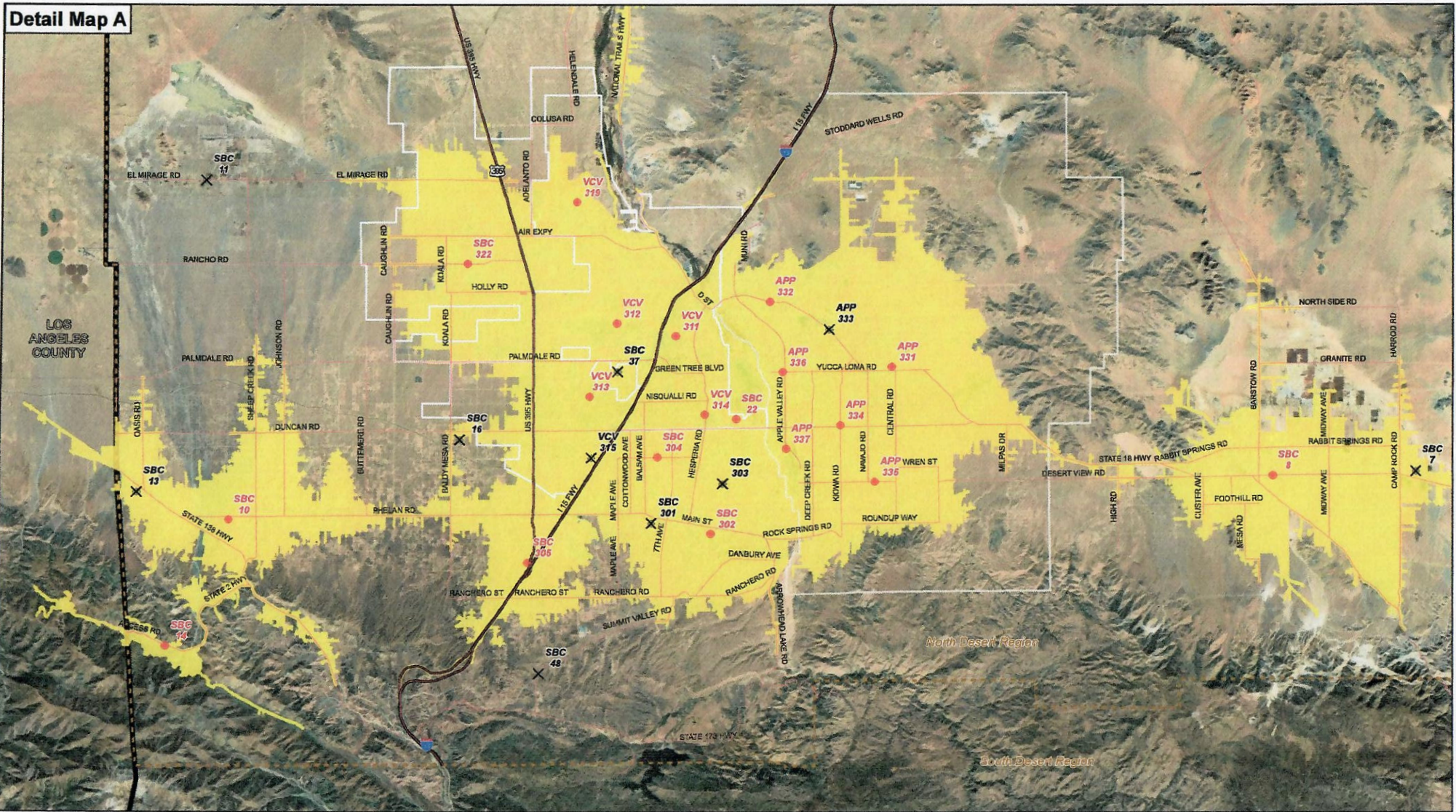
- 10 Minutes Drive Time Areas
- North Desert Region
- Active Fire Stations
- Inactive Fire Stations
- San Bernardino County Line

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Note: Drive time areas are generated based on a typical traffic condition on Wednesday, at 12:00 PM using ESRI Network Database



**Detail Map A**



**Figure 3-30: North Desert Region Fire Stations Drive Time Analysis Detail Map A — 10 Minutes**

- 10 Minutes Drive Time Areas
- 10 Minutes Drive Time Areas
- Active Fire Stations
- X Inactive Fire Stations
- North Desert Region
- San Bernardino County Line

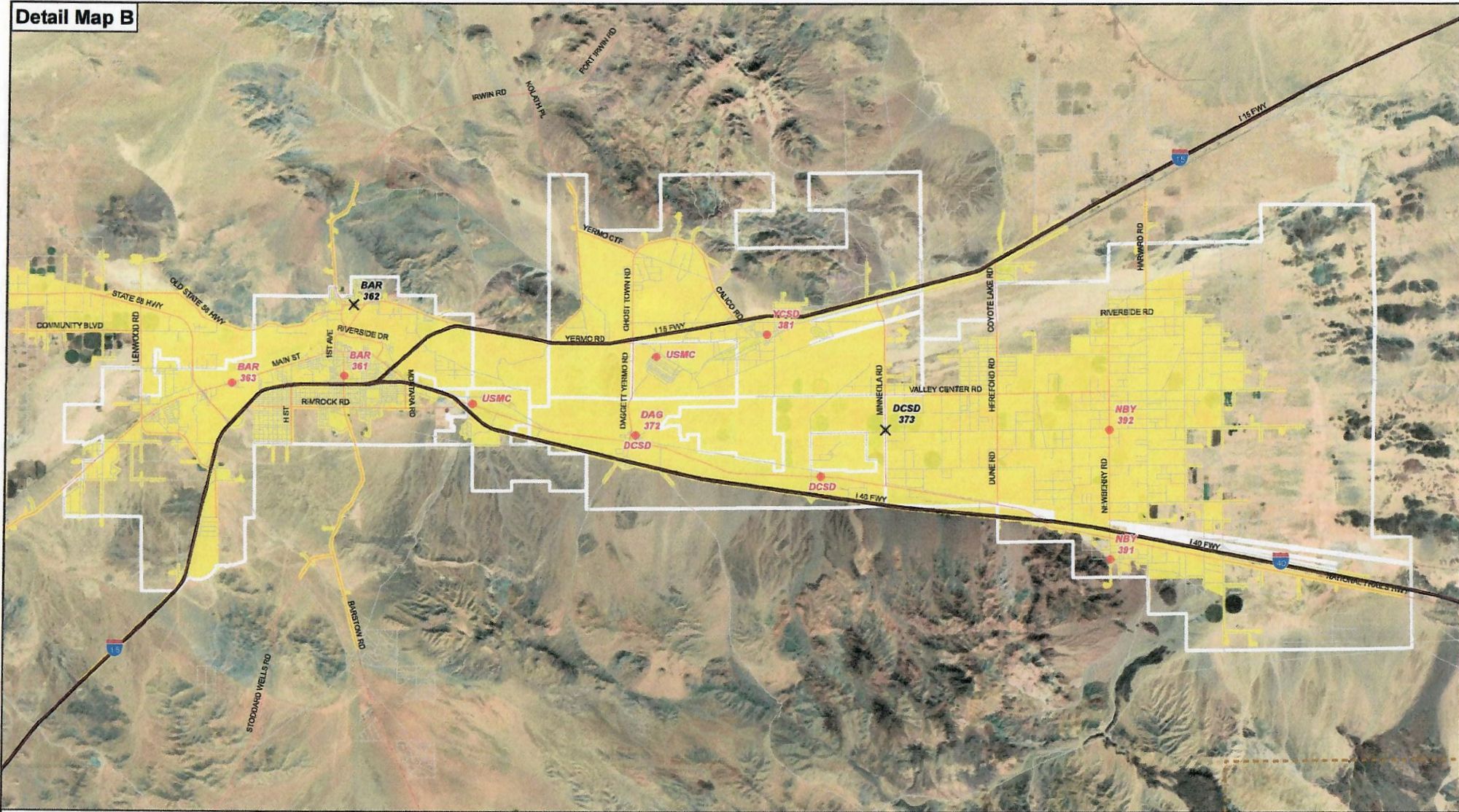


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Note: Drive time areas are generated based on a typical traffic condition on Wednesday, at 12:00 PM using ESRI Network Database



**Detail Map B**



**Figure 3-30: North Desert Region Fire Stations Drive Time Analysis Detail Map B — 10 Minutes**



Disclaimer: The information shown is intended to be used for general display only and is not to be used as an official map.

Note: Drive time areas are generated based on a typical traffic condition on Wednesday, at 12:00 PM using ESRI Network Database



- 10 Minutes Drive Time Areas** (Yellow fill)
- 10 Minutes Drive Time Areas** (Yellow outline)
- Active Fire Stations** (Red dot)
- Inactive Fire Stations** (X mark)
- North Desert Region** (Dashed white outline)
- San Bernardino County Line** (Thick black line)